



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Nelson J. Sabatini, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Health Officers
Nursing Directors
Communicable Disease Directors
Directors of Nursing
H.O.# 03-030

FROM: Karen Fujii, MHS, Epidemiologist
Division of Outbreak Investigation

THROUGH: David Blythe, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist (Acting)

DATE: April 25, 2003

SUBJECT: Suspect SARS Cases

Yesterday evening, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) assigned suspect SARS case status to two Maryland residents. One case is an Anne Arundel county resident, who traveled to Guangdong Province, China and developed fever (highest temperature: 101°F), cough and shortness of breath within 9 days of return to Maryland. The second case resides in Baltimore City and is a medical resident, who has a travel history that includes Toronto, Canada. This individual developed fever (highest temperature: 101.5°F) and cough within one day of arriving in Toronto. Neither case is seriously ill. Both individuals will remain in home isolation for 10 days following resolution of symptoms according to CDC guidelines. Please notify DHMH if you become aware of any ill close contacts of these cases. Close contact is defined as having cared for, having lived with, or having direct contact with the respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of a patient known to be a suspect SARS case. Laboratory specimens have been collected for both cases and routine testing is in progress, but to date no other etiology has been determined. In addition, specimens will be forwarded to CDC for evaluation. For updated information regarding case numbers and case status, as well as more detailed information concerning these suspect cases, please review the relevant MERSS records.

As a reminder, the Secretary now requires healthcare providers to immediately report to the health department any patient who meets the definition for a suspect SARS case. Please note that knowledge about SARS is evolving rapidly. For the most recent information about SARS refer to the DHMH web page at the following internet address: www.edcp.org. Additional information is located on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web page (www.cdc.gov) and on the World Health Organization's web site (www.who.int).

If you have any questions about SARS, please contact the Division of Outbreak Investigation at 410-767-6677.

cc: Diane Matuszak
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